

CLAIMS

I claim:

1. A measure minder device for selectively visually displaying an indication of the measure count of musical selections being played by beginning music students, the device comprising:

a first display housing having a first display face;

a second display housing having a second display face;

a keypad mounted on said first display face of said first display housing;

said keypad having keys positioned on a display membrane covering said first display face of said first display housing so as to be accessible to an operator of the device for selectively programming the device to display the measure count for chosen musical selections;

a first digital measure count display unit mounted on said first display housing and viewable through a window in said display membrane to provide a continuous visible numeric indication of the measure count before and during playing for the chosen musical selections;

a second digital measure count display unit mounted on said second display housing to provide a continuous visible numeric indication of the measure count for the chosen musical selections,

said second display unit being larger than said first display unit so as to be easily readable by music students seated

in rows facing said second digital measure count display unit; and

micro-controller means mounted within one of said first and second display housings, said micro-controller means being operatively connected to the keys of the keypad and said first and second digital measure count display units for selectively controlling the measure count indications for the chosen musical selection.

2. The measure minder according to claim 1, wherein the micro-controller means includes a replaceable battery and said keypad includes a pair of keys for selectively programming said micro-controller means to provide signals to said display units of a selected measure count and a key for turning the power supplied from said battery on and off.

3. The measure minder according to claim 1, wherein said first and second display housings are moveably hinged together by a pair of flexible straps and a flexible plastic ribbon with conductors therein passes from said first display housing and into said second display housing to connect one of said first and second digital measure count displays to said micro-controller means.

4. The measure minder according to claim 1, wherein said first display housing includes attaching means for securing the device to the top surface of a music stand.

5. The measure minder according to claim 1, wherein said second display housing includes a beat indicator mounted thereon,

 said beat indicator being operatively coupled to said micro-controller means; and

 said keypad further includes a pair of keys for selectively programming said micro-controller means to provide a beat signal to said beat indicator of said second display housing indicative of the beat for the chosen musical selection.

6. The measure minder according to claim 1, wherein said first display housings includes a beat indicator mounted therein, said beat indicator being operatively coupled to said micro-controller means;

 said beat indicator being viewable on the display face of said second display housing; and

 said keypad further includes a pair of keys for selectively programming the micro-controller to provide a beat signal to said beat indicator and/or an audio output jack on said first display housing indicative of the beat for the chosen musical selection.

7. The measure minder according to claim 6, wherein said keypad includes a pair of keys for selectively programming the micro-controller to vary the tempo of the beat indicated for the chosen musical selection.

LITMAN LAW
OFFICES, LTD.
P.O. BOX 15035
ARLINGTON, VA 22215
(703) 486-1000

8. A measure minder device for selectively visually displaying an indication of the measure count of musical

selections being played by beginning music students, the device comprising:

a first display housing having a first display face;

a second display housing having a second display face;

a first digital measure count display unit mounted on said first display housing and viewable through a window in said display membrane to provide a continuous visible numeric indication of the measure count before and during playing of chosen musical selections;

a second digital measure count display unit mounted on said second display housing to provide a continuous visible numeric indication of the measure count for chosen musical selections,

said second display unit being larger than said first display unit so as to be easily readable by music students seated in rows facing said second digital measure count display unit;

a keypad mounted on said first display face of said first display housing, said keypad having keys positioned on a display membrane covering the first display face of the first display housing so as to be accessible to an operator of the, said keypad including a pair of keys for selectively programming the micro-controller means to provide signals to the display units of a selected measure count and a key for turning the power supplied from the battery on and off; and

micro-controller means mounted within one of said first and second display housings, said micro-controller means being operatively connected to said keys of said keypad and to said first and second digital measure count display units for

selectively controlling the measure count indications for chosen musical selections.

9. The measure minder according to claim 8, wherein said first and second display housings are moveably hinged together by a pair of flexible straps and a flexible plastic ribbon with conductors therein passes from said first display housing to said second display housing to connect one of said first and second digital measure count displays to the micro-controller means.

10. The measure minder according to claim 9, wherein said second display housings includes a beat indicator mounted thereon,

 said beat indicator being operatively coupled to said micro-controller means; and

 said keypad includes a pair of keys for selectively programming said micro-controller means to provide a beat signal to said beat indicator of said second display housing indicative of the beat for the chosen musical selection.

11. The measure minder according to claim 10, wherein said first display housings includes a beat indicator mounted therein, said beat indicator being operatively coupled to said micro-controller means;

 said beat indicator being viewable on said display face of said first display housing; and

said micro-controller further providing a beat signal to said beat indicator of said first display housing and/or an audio output jack on said first display housing.

12. The measure minder according to claim 11, wherein said keypad further includes a pair of keys for selectively programming said micro-controller means to vary the tempo of the beat indicated for the chosen musical selection.

13. The measure minder according to claim 10, wherein said first and second digital measure count display units include LED's and said beat lamp comprises an LED.

14. The measure minder according to claim 10, wherein said first and second digital measure count display units include LCD's and said beat lamp comprises an LCD segment.

15. A measure minder device for selectively visually displaying an indication of the measure count of musical selections being played by beginning music students, the device comprising:

 a first display housing having a first display face;
 a second display housing having a second display face;
 a first digital measure count display unit mounted on said first display housing and viewable through a window in said display membrane to provide a continuous visible numeric indication of the measure count before and during playing of chosen musical selections;

a second digital measure count display unit mounted on said second display housing to provide a continuous visible numeric indication of the measure count for chosen musical selections,

said second display unit being larger than said first display unit so as to be easily readable by music students seated in rows facing said second digital measure count display unit;

a first beat lamp mounted within said first display housing, said first beat lamp being operatively coupled to said micro-controller means and viewable through said display face of said first display housing;

a second beat lamp mounted within said second display housing, said second beat lamp being operatively coupled to said micro-controller means and viewable through said display face of said second display housing;

a keypad mounted on said first display face of said first display housing, said keypad having keys positioned on a display membrane covering the first display face of the first display housing so as to be accessible to an operator of the, said keypad including keys for selectively programming the micro-controller means to provide signals to the display units of a selected measure count, keys for selectively programming said micro-controller means to provide a beat signal to said first and second beat lamps indicative of the beat for the chosen musical selection, keys for selectively programming said micro-controller means to vary the tempo of the beat indicated for the chosen musical selection, a programming key for selectively programming changes in beat and tempo for any particular measure, and a key for turning the measure minder on and off; and

micro-controller means mounted within one of said first and second display housings, said micro-controller means being operatively connected to said keys of said keypad and to said first and second digital measure count display units and beat lamps for selectively controlling the measure count, beat and tempo indications for chosen musical selections, said micro-controller means permitting variations in beat and tempo indications for selected measure counts required by chosen musical selections to be selectively programmed.

16. The measure minder according to claim 15, wherein said first and second display housings are moveably hinged together by a pair of flexible straps and a flexible plastic ribbon with conductors therein passes from said first display housing to said second display housing to connect one of said first and second digital measure count displays to the micro-controller means.

17. The measure minder according to claim 16, wherein said keypad further includes a key for selectively programming said micro-controller means to vary the tempo of the beat indicated for the chosen musical selection.

18. The measure minder according to claim 15, wherein said first and second digital measure count display units include LED's and said beat lamp comprises an LED.

19. The measure minder according to claim 15, wherein said first and second digital measure count display units include LCD's and said beat lamp comprises an LCD segment.

20. The measure minder according to claim 16, wherein said first display housing includes attaching means for securing the device to the top surface of a music stand.